

JTCHINSON'S WINNER GIVES WYCOMBE BREAKTHROUGH



CHARLIE GALE

Clapton 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' visit to lowly placed Clapton on Saturday was obviously made with one eye on tonight's (Tuesday) home clash with Enfield.

Geoff Anthony, Keith Blunt and Barry Baker, injured against Hitchin last Monday, were omitted from the twelve selected, but the club's recent signing, Paul Fuschillo, was named, having received clearance from the F.A. Hardship Committee the previous Thursday.

John Hutchinson, who has not played since returning from holiday due to an eye infection, and Ian Rundle, also moved into the line up, which had Scottish International, Iain MacLean on the substitute's bench, until the second half when an ankle injury put paid to Charlie Gale for the afternoon.

Pitch conditions were rough and hard and barely conducive to anything approaching good football. A strong wind also contributed to a dull game. It soon became obvious that Clapton, looking for their first points of the season, would be willing to share the spoils.

Wycombe attacked and forced many corners, while Clapton's anchor men, Smith and Pope, were content to pump the high ball down the centre of the pitch, for their forwards to run onto whenever possible.

Wycombe's defence however looked sound and they had more trouble with the bounce of the ball off the pitch than anything.

Eight or nine Clapton men at a time were soon back in a desperate defence, but the Wycombe forwards failed to pierce their wall, and frustration began to show in their play. The situation was not helped any by referee Reeves' insistence on blowing his whistle for every minor infringement.

Hutchinson and Bremer drove shots over the bar, Searle headed

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE (Top positions)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wycombe	7	7	0	0	23	5	14
Enfield	7	5	2	0	10	1	12

wide and Pritchard worked as hard as ever to open up a scoring opportunity.

But generally the goal touch was missing, as the attack failed to show through in numbers.

Searle fired wide of goal after an accurate Tony Horseman free kick had found him unmarked on the edge of the six yard box.

Meanwhile Wanderers contained Clapton's rare raids, Fuschillo showing aggression and strength in midfield.

Football was always scrappy with Wanderers struggling to produce anything like their true form with conditions difficult. Hutchinson however always left his shadow, Smith, far behind, admiring the scenery, in the second half, and a goal had to come.

MacLean replaced Gale after 68 minutes, when Clapton also brought on their substitute Davenport for Hanning.

The long awaited goal arrived from a simple movement in the 73rd minute. Larry Pritchard lofted the ball to Hutchinson, who calmly headed it past the advancing 'keeper.

The siege continued, with corner after corner being conceded at Clapton's end.

But there was to be no goal rush at this late stage of proceedings. Although in the last minute, Bernie Bremer had a good shot saved when a neat piece of football between Horseman and Pritchard found him unmarked.

CLAPTON: Partridge; Smith, Pope; Murray, Hounsell; Watson; Hanning (sub. Davenport), Bennett, Bull, Dye, Aldridge.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Maskell; Rundle, Gale (sub. MacLean); Powell, Delaney, Fuschillo; Horseman, Pritchard, Searle, Bremer, Hutchinson.